

Region/ORD Cumulative Risk Workshop

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**Paul Gilman, Ph.D
Assistant Administrator for ORD**

Agency Decisions/Sound Science

- “The credibility of our decisions depends on the science underlying them.”
- “We are embarking on a new era at EPA — one where our commitment to the quality and relevance of science is greater than ever before.”

- Administrator Whitman, EPA Science Forum, 5.1.02

ORD Regional Science Program

- Regional Science Liaisons to ORD
- Regional Applied Research Effort (RARE)
- Regional Methods Program (RM Program)
- Regions/ORD Science Topic Workshops
- Region-specific STAR grant workshops
- Hazardous Waste Technical Support Program
(Haz Subs Tech Liaisons, Tech Support Centers)
- EMAP, R-EMAP, ReVA

Region/ORD Partnership

Recent & Upcoming Events

- Region/ORD Science Summit (9.25.02)
 - 3 DRAs on the Agency's Science Policy Council
 - Greater Regional participation in STAR grants
- Doubling of FY03 RARE budget (to \$2M)
- STAR grantee workshop in Region 1 (10.14.02)
- ORD AA and Lab Directors visits to the Regions

Regions/ORD

Science Topic Workshops

- Topics & issues - identified by the Regions
- Jointly planned - Regions (lead), ORD, and interested Program Offices
- Past workshops (e.g.) - asthma, nonindigenous species, pesticides, aquatic criteria, air toxics
- Future workshops – EJ and tribal, emerging pollutants, and environmental indicators

Workshop Objectives

- Create cross-Agency science networks
- Identify:
 1. Opportunities to integrate EPA science into Regional decision-making
 2. Critical science uncertainties, and
 3. Needed science products

Expected Outcomes of THIS Workshop

- Identify existing and ongoing work related to conducting cumulative risk assessments,
- Discuss complex issues and develop an understanding of the practical limitations of doing cumulative risk assessments, and
- Develop suggestions for ORD research to fill the information gaps.

Getting Started

- **Cumulative risk assessment** = an analysis, characterization, and possible quantification of the combined risks to health or the environment from multiple agents or stressors.
- **Expectations versus Reality**
- Need to develop a clear Agency message